

Attorney Docket No.: **KUZ0034US.NP**
Inventors: **Ohno et al.**
Serial No.: **10/590,549**
Filing Date: **August 23, 2006**
Page 5

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 were pending in the instant application.

Claims 1-4 and 6 have been rejected. Claim 5 has been objected to.

Claims 1 and 4 have been amended. Support for the amendments is provided in claim 2, now canceled, and teachings of the specification at page 6, lines 4-7 and page 9, lines 21-24. Claim 6 has also been canceled in light of these amendments.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of these amendments and the following remarks.

I. Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over JP 03-034270

Claims 1-4 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 03-034270. The Examiner suggests that the document teaches imidazolium compounds according to the formula depicted in the abstract, wherein R1-R5 can be hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl or aryl radicals and X can be Cl⁻, Br⁻ or I⁻, and ionic solvents containing them, that are useful as electrolytes.

It is respectfully pointed out that claim 1 has been amended in accordance with teachings in the specification at page 6, lines 4-7 and page 9, lines 21-24, respectively, to

Attorney Docket No.: KUZ0034US.NP
Inventors: Ohno et al.
Serial No.: 10/590,549
Filing Date: August 23, 2006
Page 6

be drawn to imidazolium compound represented by Formula (I) in which, R₁ is an alkyl group having 4 to 8 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, R₂, R₃, and R₄ independently denote a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an optionally substituted cycloalkyl group having 3 to 10 carbon atoms, an optionally substituted alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an optionally substituted aryl group having 6 to 10 carbon atoms, and X⁻ is BF₄⁻, PF₆⁻, CF₃SO₃⁻, or (CF₃SO₂)₂N⁻. Claim 4 has also been amended to be drawn to a solvent comprising an imidazolium compound represented by Formula (I) in which, R₁, R₂, R₃, and R₄ independently denote a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an optionally substituted cycloalkyl group having 3 to 10 carbon atoms, an optionally substituted alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an optionally substituted aryl group having 6 to 10 carbon atoms, and X⁻ is BF₄⁻, PF₆⁻, CF₃SO₃⁻, or (CF₃SO₂)₂N⁻.

JP 03-034270 does not expressly or inherently teach the claimed compounds. Thus, this reference cannot anticipate the instant claimed invention. See MPEP 2131.

Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Attorney Docket No.: KUZ0034US.NP
Inventors: Ohno et al.
Serial No.: 10/590,549
Filing Date: August 23, 2006
Page 7

II. Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Qiao et al.

Claims 1-4 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Qiao et al. (Journal of Molecular Catalysis A: Chemical).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

It is respectfully pointed out that the online publication date of Qiao et al. was November 23, 2005. This was almost nine months after the February 24, 2005 filing date of PCT/JP2005/002988 of which the instant application is a U.S. National Stage application and 21 months after the February 24, 2004 priority date of the instant application.

Accordingly, Qiao et al. is not a valid prior art reference with respect to the instant application.

Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Objection to Claim 5

Claim 5 has been objected to as depending upon a rejected base claim.

As discussed in Section I, *supra*, claim 4, from which claim 5 depends, has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

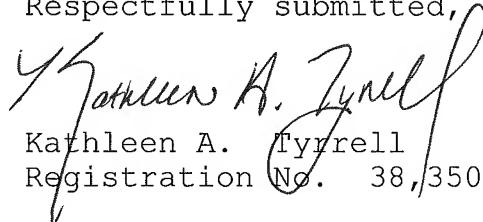
Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Attorney Docket No.: **KUZ0034US.NP**
Inventors: **Ohno et al.**
Serial No.: **10/590,549**
Filing Date: **August 23, 2006**
Page 8

IV. Conclusion

Applicants believe that the foregoing comprises a full and complete response to the Office Action of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and subsequent allowance of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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